

The VVFC News Alert
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June 2003



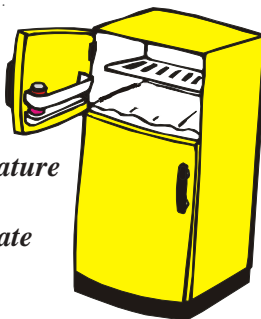
Prevnar Update

On May 16, 2003, CDC declared the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine shortage over. Vaccine production and deliveries are now adequate to permit a return to the routine vaccination schedule. All children aged <24 months and children 24-59 months who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease should be administered pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. For more information and for a catch-up schedule, please refer to the MMWR included with this mailing.

Because the supply of pneumococcal vaccine has improved and the existing need to implement a catch-up schedule, **VVFC is increasing the previous limit of 75 doses per order to 100 doses per order.** Facilities who have been approved to order more than 100 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine per order will remain at their current limits. If you have any questions about your vaccine order limit, please contact the VVFC Order Center.

Check Your Freezer

What kind of freezer do you use to store your varicella vaccine? The prescribing information for varicella vaccine indicates *any freezer that reliably maintains an average temperature of -15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit) or below and has a separate sealed freezer door is acceptable for storing varicella vaccine.*



Many facilities have limited space in their offices and prefer to use a dorm style unit. Dorm style units often contain a flip door for the freezer, which is not sealed. This type of unit does not maintain proper temperatures for varicella vaccine. Small units (4 cubic feet) can be found with separately sealed freezer doors and are acceptable for storing varicella vaccine. Contact your local hardware or appliance stores for availability.



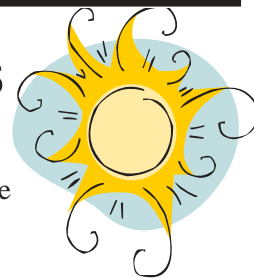
Updated VVFC Forms

- ☒ Vaccine Administration and Screening Record
- ☒ Reportable Diseases in Virginia
- ☒ VVFC Temperature Log

Please recycle all old forms and begin using the new forms included in this mailing.

Combination Vaccines and VIS

When using combination vaccines, vaccine information statements for each antigen must be distributed and all of the publication dates must be documented.



If you are using an administration record, you may document each publication date separately on the lines for the individual antigens. It is only necessary to record additional vaccine documentation once (i.e. lot number, manufacturer, vaccine administrator).



VVFC Awards Exceptional Immunization Rates

*Children's Healthcare Center, Danville
Courthouse Pediatrics, Gloucester
The Pediatric Group, P.C., Alexandria*

(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

*Practice of Dr. Jowita Dziatkiewicz, Chesapeake
Tri-City Pediatrics, Hopewell*

Medicaid Y-Codes/CPT Codes

On June 20, 2003, Medicaid will begin accepting CPT codes as well as Y codes for vaccine administration fee billing. Either set of codes will be accepted until October 16, 2003. However, when compliance with HIPAA becomes mandatory on October 16, 2003, only national codes sets (CPT codes) will be accepted for claims submission.

Included in this mailing is a quick reference chart with both code sets for each vaccine. If you have additional Medicaid billing questions, please call the Medicaid Helpline at 1-800-552-8627.

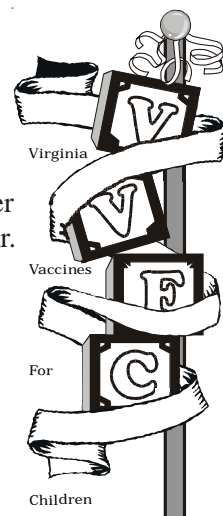


VVFC Announces Staff Changes

Rebecca Early, MPH
Vaccine Accountability Supervisor

Amanda Wiechowski, MS
*Northern Virginia
Regional Consultant*

Both staff members have been in other positions with VVFC for almost a year. They bring valuable experience to these new positions and to our VVFC providers. Please join us in congratulating them on their success.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR VACCINES NO MORE THAN EVERY
THREE MONTHS (4 TIMES A YEAR), UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED.
QUESTIONS? CALL THE VVFC OFFICE AT 1-800-568-1929.